

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 8 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 remain in the application. Thus, claims 1-7 and 9-12 are active in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, that claims 1-7 and 9-12 are allowed.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blahut et al. (U.S. 5,442,389) in view of White et al. (U.S. 6,628,302).

Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection and merely to expedite allowance of the application, claims 8 and 13 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claims 8 and 13.

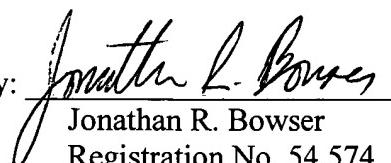
By virtue of the cancellation of claims 8 and 13, the Applicants submit that only claims which were kindly indicated to be allowed remain in the application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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